

fifteen drops may be placed on a handkerchief and inhaled, at the same time it is taken internally; the same method will answer in epistaxis. In diarrhœa, fifteen drops every four hours, until it is relieved, will in most cases be sufficient. In dysentery it is always best to precede its use by a dose of castor oil, to remove all irritating matter from the stomach and bowels, and even then, I must confess, I have not obtained the gratifying results which some claim to have derived from its use in this affection. I have, however, in every case derived more or less advantage from its use. In hemorrhages and diarrhœa of debility I know of no better remedy, and I trust the profession will give it a trial and let us know the results.

ART. XII.—*Tinctura Iodini Decolorata as a Therapeutic Agent.*

By N. J. AIKIN, M. D., of St. Louis, Mo.

THIS compound, as an efficient therapeutic agent, is worthy of more attention than it seems to have received from the profession in general. It has been conveniently called "Colourless Iodine." Prof. Simpson was among the first to suggest its use.

The best mode of preparing it is to mix equal parts of the comp. tinct. of iodine and strong water of ammonia. The mixture is at first brown, but after standing a few hours becomes colourless. If the colour does not disappear after twenty-four hours—which may indicate that the ingredients are at fault—add more ammonia, and, perhaps, an excess of one-fourth will be required to effect complete decoloration. When a weaker preparation is desired, it may be reduced *ad lib.* with water or glycerine. It acts on starch under some circumstances, for a slight contact with starched linen produced an instant stain; yet upon thoroughly moistening a little powdered starch with it, the blue colour did not appear. A little camphor dissolved in the tinct. will render it more agreeable to individuals, though it may add nothing to its therapeutical value.

Whenever the external use of iodine is indicated, this can be used with advantage over any other of its preparations in the liquid form. As an alterative, absorbent, counter-irritant, or discutient, it is as neat as well as a reliable remedy.

Applied to the forehead, face, or throat, it produces no annoying disfigurement, and, with the exception of articles of clothing that are starched, it leaves no stain on dressings or apparel. Its effects on enlarged glands are generally most satisfactory. In inflammation where a counter-irritant is desired, as in some cases of pneumonia, it is very useful; it is cleanly, convenient, easily applied, and the degree and rapidity of its action can be readily controlled. (As a *stupe* its direct irritant effects depend principally

upon the ammonia.) It is useful in neuralgia and rheumatism, and for bruises or sprains is preferable to either the "soap" or "camphor" liniment. Acene, long intractable, will yield to this remedy applied several times a day, and used similarly on the first appearance of furuncular eruptions, it will generally arrest their progress, or cause them to disappear altogether. In erysipelas it is a most valuable application, if not superior to all others.

It will readily occur, that this tincture contains no free iodine, but consists of the iodide of potassium, and the iodide of ammonium, in solution in the alcohol, with an excess of ammonia. Now a similar result may be attained by dissolving these salts in any desired menstruum, but the formula suggested is more convenient, like the following: R. Tinct. iodin. comp., Aq. ammon. fortior., aa ʒj; Camphor. ʒj.—M. After the camphor is dissolved, let the mixture stand until it becomes colourless.

This solution is absorbed with great facility. Is the iodine, to any great extent, *absorbed* when a surface is painted with the ordinary tincture or solution? The dryness and contraction of the skin, which it occasions, certainly cannot favour absorption. And premising that the salts of iodine are mostly decomposed in the system, this compound presents greater claims for usefulness in the practice of the healing art.

The correctness of the above remarks may be proved by experiment, which will also as fully demonstrate the superior advantages possessed by the colourless preparation of iodine, as an improved form for a valuable agent gratifies that spirit of progress which seeks for the best remedies in best means and best methods.

ART. XIII.—Cases of Gunshot Wounds of Abdomen involving Viscera.

By HENRY DUSENBURY, M. D., Act. Asst. Surgeon U. S. A.

CASE I. *Gunshot wound of liver and kidney; recovery*.—Albert A. Sharer, Corporal Co. "D," 26th Mich. V., æt. 23, American. Physical constitution good.

April 6, 1865, while in an engagement at South Side Railroad, received a gunshot wound: a round ball entering on the right lateral side of body between ninth and tenth ribs, eight inches from median line of body, and continuing its course through liver, and after passing through left kidney, emerging between eleventh and twelfth ribs half an inch from articulation.

He was admitted into Finley General Hospital, Ward 3, April 12, 1865, from hospital at City Point. He states that while in field hospital cold dressings were applied and he was kept quiet.

Upon admission his symptoms were as follows: Some tenderness at points of entrance and exit, and both wounds suppurating kindly. There seems to be a slight hemorrhage flowing into the pelvis of the kidney, which finds its way out with the urine through its natural channel. The patient